

companies or reductions in the national deficit?

How about creating jobs? We have constantly been trying to get a bill to this floor that provides low-cost loans for energy saving renovations. It is considered the most powerful job creator dollar-for-dollar of any idea that has been put forward. It is in the form of HOME Star, which provides low-cost energy saving loans to families, and they can pay them back from the savings in energy. So it is a win-win for the family, and it puts people to work in America in a construction industry that is 50 percent unemployed.

How about Building Star? It does the same thing on commercial buildings. How about Rural Star Energy, the bill that provides these low-cost loans through rural co-ops, so rural America can benefit from energy savings and can pay back these low-cost loans from the savings on their monthly utility bills.

The reason this creates so many jobs is because not only can you not outsource overseas the jobs themselves for the construction work that is done, but almost every single thing that is used in the energy saving economy—from the insulation, to the caulk, to the double-paned windows—is made here in America. That is why you get so much tremendous leverage. You put the American construction industry to work and you utilize American products.

Maybe it is more important to create jobs than it is to give away \$2 billion a year to the most profitable five oil companies in America. Maybe it is important to shore up Medicare. Some of my colleagues have talked about they want to dismantle Medicare. They want to turn it into a voucher program, where the voucher would not increase as medical costs increase, so that slowly Medicare would be wiped out as the ability to provide health care for our seniors. Maybe it is more important to provide a strong Medicare Program than it is to give away \$2 billion a year to the most profitable five oil companies in America.

Maybe it is more important to enable our children to get loans to go to college. We are becoming the first generation of adults whose children are getting less education than we have because the cost of tuition has gone up disproportionately to the income of a working family. The more tuition goes up, in comparison, the more our students have to wrestle with whether they can afford to go to college and, if they go, whether they need to drop out after the first year in order to go back

to work in order to save to go the second year. When students leave college in that situation, they do not often get back.

Maybe it is more important that we proceed to help American students—our children—go to college than to give away \$2 billion to the five most profitable oil companies in America.

Tomorrow, we are going to have a vote. The vote is simply whether this is important enough to debate, whether it is important enough for us to come together as a Chamber and say it matters whether tax loopholes were carved out through special interest lobbying over the past 20 years in order to get very sweet deals when they serve no basic core purpose in the American economy. We need to have that debate. I wish to encourage my colleagues across the aisle to vote yes tomorrow, to vote yes on a motion to proceed, so we can get to the bill and have that debate.

Under the rules that have been established, we need 60 votes; otherwise, my colleagues across the aisle threaten to filibuster, that they are going to do a silent filibuster, blocking the ability of this Chamber to have a debate. Let me tell you, this needs to be debated.

Fiscal responsibility needs to be debated. These tax giveaways need to be debated. The tradeoffs between assisting our students and tax giveaways need to be debated. The tradeoff between reducing the deficit and these giveaways needs to be debated. The contrast and comparison between shoring up programs that provide health care to our seniors and these giveaways need to be debated.

I encourage my colleagues: Do not shy from your responsibility to wrestle with difficult challenges. Come and vote yes tomorrow evening on proceeding to debating the giveaways to the five most profitable oil companies in America so we can consider whether those funds will be better serving American citizens by reducing the deficit or by providing core programs.

Thank you, Mr. President.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 904, S. 953

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time for debate on the motions to proceed to Calendar No. 42, S. 904, and Calendar No. 43, S. 953 be equally divided in the usual form.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

TERRY D. GARCIA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE DENNIS F. HIGHTOWER, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAN W. MOZENA, OF IOWA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER—COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

FRANKIE ANNETTE REED, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE FIJI ISLANDS, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, TUVALU, AND THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be general

LT. GEN. GILMARY M. HOSTAGE III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ROBERT R. ALLARDICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK F. RAMSAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JUDITH A. FEDDER

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. KATHLEEN M. GAINES

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. MARK D. HARNITCHEK